HOW THEY PUNISH BAD BOYS IN CHINA

Bad boys in China meet much the same fate that they do in the United States for ordinary offenses, but if little Hop Lee or Ah Moo is especially bad he is much more severely punished in China than wicked little Tommy Jones or Sammy Brown in this country. Where Tommy and Sammy would only go to the reform school to remain until they gave evidence of being better boys, Hop Lee or Ah Moo might be thrown into a miserable prison along with the meanest kind of ruffians in the empire. Or they might be sentenced to parade the streets with a cangue around their necks in place of a collar. A cangue is a wooden platform three or four feet square, with a hole in the middle through which the head is placed. Then planks are nailed close around the neck so that the head cannot be withdrawn, and the boy, with the cangue resting on his houlders, is turned out to drift about the town and be taunted by all the other boys and by every loafer that he meets.

Ordinarily naughty little boys in China are punished after the same fashion that bad little boys are punished in this country, except that in China stern parents use a strip of bamboo instead of an apple tree switch, and while the apple tree switch is good in its way it has not the wonderfully persuasive effect of the split bamboo.

The Chinese believe emphatically in the proverb, "Spare the rod and spoil the child," and several good strong pieces of split bamboo are part of the household furniture in every home which rejoices in a boy. The school teacher, besides having small cakes of india ink and little wells of water, ininvariably on his table also has a heavy wooden ruler and a rattan stick. If a boy fails to study as assiduously as he should do, repeating his lessons over and over at the top of his lungs, the teacher will whip the palms of his hands with the wooden ruler.

If a boy forgets his lesson and breaks down in the middle of a recitation the teacher reaches over the desk and vigorously taps the slothful student over the head with the rattan cane.

The hundreds of thousands of people who live on the boats in the river at Canton have their own methods of punishment for bad boys. Some of these families seldom go on shore or where it would be possible to secure a good piece of bamboo and the bad boys who think that life on a boat far away from a bamboo grove would be a perennial delight might be disillusionized when they behold the mother of a house boat family punishing her wicked offspring. She does not wait to pick up a switch. Instead she picks up the offspring himself and unceremoniously hurls him into the river. He comes up gasping and sputtering and tries to crawl back into the boat, but his irate mother throws him back into the water. When the mother thinks the boy has been sufficiently punished she permits him finally to crawl on board.

In the homes of Chinese gentlemen, while the bamboo switch is not allowed to be idle, boys are often punished for gambling or smoking opium by being chained to a heavy weight, which they are obliged to drag about with them wherever they go. If little "O Most Delightful One of the Golden Lilies" sees her small brother, Hop Yooey, smoking opium and runs in and says, "Papa, papa, Yooey's smoking again," the hair of the venerable parent rises straight up with horror. And a person who has three feet and four inches of hair plastered into a tight braid would be a pleasing thing to see at the moment that very hair on his head was standing straight up. The elder Hop does not grasp his offspring by the arm and say, "Young man, come with me to the woodshed," but he then and there proceeds to administer the split bamboo with great earnestness, and then, if he thinks his offspring merits additional punishment, he carries him into the house and chains his feet to a heavy iron weight.

As an additional and much more dreaded punishment the wicked Chinese youth may be refused his share of the pork which is annually divided by each clan family upon their return from the ancestral graves and which is regarded as a gift from the departed.

Sometimes parents get rid of bad sons by simply setting them adrift on the street or by surrendering them to prison. Parents sometimes sell their children and often sons are taken by creditors as hostages for a debt.

One difference between bad boys in China and in America is that in China sons never get so old but that their parents can whip them.

Sometimes in China a man 30 or 40 years old can be seen being soundly thrashed by his irate parents. This would be a terrible thing for the American boy, who, no matter what depths of woe he may be in, looks fondly forward to the time when he shall outgrow the switch just as he outgrows his trousers.

There was an article in one of the Hongkong papers last summer about an aged Chinese woman who looked out of her window and saw one of her elder sons, a man of 35, who had long been married and had a big family of his own, passing the house reeling drunk. The old lady concluded she had not been as strict when her son was a child as she should have been, and so she picked up a heavy piece of bamboo, and, rushing out into the street, pounded her big son to her heart's content and until he had promised to reform and let alone opium and drink.

The filial respect and devotion inculcated in Chinese boys from their earliest infancy would forbid a Chinese boy from ever committing such a heinous crime as to raise his hand against his father or mother. The worst crime of which the Chinese can conceive is for a boy to strike one of his parents, and if a young Chinaman should kill his father or mother the law visits the most vondign punishment not only upon him but his neighbors and friends.

In most provinces instances of parricide have been punished by the immediate decapitation of the murderer and the dividing of the body into small bits. Then the family home is seized by the state and the house razed to the ground and the earth under the house and in the yard is dug up to the depth of three feet and carried away. The nearest neighbors on both sides of the house where the crime was committed are flogged or exiled, the principal teacher of the culprit is put to death, the district magistrate of the place is removed from office and disgraced, and the viceroys of that province, the governor of the province, and the prefect are degraded three degrees in rank. In one instance, in Canton province, a son who beat his aged mother was decapitated and all the students in that district were not allowed to take the great state examination for three years.

The Chinese boy has his sports and games to help keep him busy and out of mischief. He flies kites and plays at shuttlecock, the shuttlecock being kicked about from one boy to another and kept in the air as long as possible. Chinese boys who, if they were in America would enjoy dog fights, in China amuse themselves by securing large, aggressive crickets and arranging cricket fights. The boys in China also play at guessing pennies, and buy oranges from the peddlers with the agreement that the one who comes the nearest to guessing the seeds in the orange be allowed to eat it while the other one pays.

But one good friend the Chinese boy has, no matter how bad he may be, and that is the same friend that the bad American boy has—mother. Chinese mothers weep over their bad sons just like American mothers do, and intercede with the father to forgive the wickedness of his offspring.

So even in far off China the bad boy has his friends, and there as here, no matter how wicked he is or where he is, the fond, loving mother waits through the night for his return, and murmurs in words that, in spite of the fact they are spoken in Chinese, are as tender as though uttered in English, "Come home, there's a light in the window for you."

Queer Kinds of Bread.

The Mexicans make bread of the eggs of three kinds of insects. For this purpose the natives cultivate in the lagune of Chalco a sort of carex, on which the insects readily deposit their eggs. The eggs, after being separated from the bundles of floating carex, are then cleaned and sifted, put into sacks like flour, and sold to the people for making a kind of cake or bread, called "hautle," which forms a tolerably good food, but has a fishy taste, and is slightly acid. Bread has been made from wood and sawdust. In Kamchatka pine or birch bark, well macerated, pounded and baked, frequently constitutes the native bread. The Icelander scrapes the Iceland moss off the rocks and grinds it into fine flour, whih serves both for bread and puddings. In Africa powdered dry locusts are mixed with flour for bread, and during the Indian famine small stones are said to have been ground and mixed with meal for bread. On the western shores of England a certain kind of seaweed (Phorphyra laciniata) is gathered, washed, boiled, and then baked with oatmeal flour for bread.

Yu-Keng, the Chinese minister to France, lives in a luxurious house near the Arc de Triomphe. He has traveled a great deal in this country and married an American woman. He is 60 years old now and has served his country since his youth. He fought with distinction under General Gordon in 1864, and, being descended from an old Manchu family, rose rapidly at court.

No military parade or drill, except in case of war, riot, invasion or insurrection is lawful on election day in New York.

PORTER'S NAME ENDORSED.

Supreme Court Upholds the Secretary of State in His Decision.

LINCOLN, Oct. 22.—The supreme court reversed the order of Judge Holmes of the district court directing Secretary of State Porter to certify to the county clerks the nominations of the populist party. This decision will permit the county clerks to use the prefix, "mid-road," put on the sample ballots by Secretary Porter. The populist candidates argued through their attorneys that the court had no jurisdiction to try the issues of the case, but upon this case all three judges agreed. Chief Justice Norval, however, dissented from the judgment of reversal. No opinion was handed down in the case, the decision being simply entered on the court record.

Guilty of Attempted Murder.

WEST POINT, Neb., Oct. 22.—The trial of William Hart in the district court on a charge of attempted murder was concluded Saturday and the case given to the jury. After being out a short time they returned a verdict of guilty. An application for a new trial on the grounds of newly discovered evidence was filed this morning and will be passed upon, most probably, this evening.

The crime for which the accused was convicted of a most atrocious one. The woman, Christina Johnson, had for some time been the paramour of the prisoner, Hart, and on her refusal to continue the illicit relations which had heretofore existed between them he deliberately shot at her five times with a revolver, missing her every time. One bullet grazed her neck, inflicting a slight flesh wound of no importance, but otherwise she was unscathed. The verdict gives general satisfaction.

Cases to Be Called.

LINCOLN, Neb., Oct. 20.—Below will be found a list of cases that will be called for hearing before the supreme court on November 7, 1900:

Morris vs. Linton, Douglas; Philadelphia Mortgage & Trust Co. vs. Buckstaff Bros. Mfg. Co., Lancaster; Philadelphia Mortgage & Trust Co. vs. Hutchins, Lancaster; Buck vs. Stuben, Sarpy; Bank of Stockham vs. Alter, Hamilton; Adams vs. Osgood, Douglas; Brown vs. Sloan, Pawnee; State, e xrel Wahoo Water Works vs. Wahoo, Saunders; Hanscom vs. Meyer, Douglas; First National Bank, Plattsmouth, vs. Gibson, Cass; State, ex rel Gordon vs. Moores, Douglas; Smith vs. State, Nemaha; eRnard vs. Wyckoff, Washington.

Sugar Beet Culture.

SOUTH OMAHA, Oct. 22.—President Burness of the local sugar beet factory is busily engaged these days in buying all of the sugar beets he can find in this vicinity. It is the intention of Mr. Burness to make a thorough canvass of the territory tributary to South Omaha with a view of inducing farmers to plant sugar beets next spring. He says that most any farmer can put in an acre of beets without any great trouble, as the seed is not expensive. Down below Bellevue several farmers are preparing to plant large crops of beets, as the experiment made on the island this year has proven entirely successful.

Buried by Falling Walls.

FREMONT, Neb., Oct. 22.—A couple of men engaged in tearing down an old building back of the city hall had a narrow escape. Without any warning the two side walls of the building fell in, burying the men amid a mass of debris. They were removed as soon as possible to a boarding house near by and a physician summoned. One of them, C. C. Clark, had his foot and ankle badly bruised and the other, C. Jensen, sustained some internal injuries. N. Rasmussen, the owner of the building, who was working with the men, fortunately escaped uninjured.

Money Continues to Come.

OMAHA, Neb., Oct. 22.—Mayor Moores is still receiving contributions to the Galveston relief fund and estimates that the entire amount sent to the sufferers by November 1 will be $9,000. Most of the money has been sent direct to Galveston. West Galveston, Alvin and several other small towns were sent $100 each. An appeal has come from Velasco and the surrounding country, in which not a single house escaped the floods. The mayor will send $100 to E. B. Hoeble, chairman of the Velasco relief committee, and will also send $50 to Arcola.

Livery Barn Burned.

TABLE ROCK, Neb., Oct. 22.—J. B. Beck's livery barn burned here and seven head of horses perished in the flames, while several vehicles and a quantity of hay and grain were destroyed. By heroic efforts the firemen saved Mr. Beck's residence and neighboring houses. The loss is $3,000.

Goes After Hail Insurers.

LINCOLN, Neb., Oct. 22.—Attorney General Smyth has been granted leave to docket a petition to oust the Nebraska Grain Growers Mutual Hail association from doing business in Nebraska because it has failed to secure a permit from the state auditor.

Wheels Cut Off a Hand.

AINSWORTH, Neb., Oct. 22.—As W. S. Garcelon, an employe of the McCormick Harvester and Machine company went to board the 5 o'clock freight here this morning he slipped and fell under the wheels and his left hand was cut off.

Sneezing Causes Death.

CALLAWAY, Neb., Oct. 22.—While churning for her mother the nine-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Ross, residing about ten miles west of this place, was seized with a fit of sneezing. Her parents paid but little attention to it until it became so serious that she could hardly get her breath between the attacks, when they became alarmed and summoned a doctor. It was in vain that he tried to check it, until just before she expired, when she became unconscious, and passed away, just thirteen hours after she was seized with it.

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Walking Canes for Women.

The newest society fad is the girl-with-the-cane. She has appeared almost simultaneously in the east and west. She was noticed among the shoppers of Chicago last week, and New York has seen several of her on its Fifth avenue in the last few days. The stick is a dainty, pliant thing, light in weight, and with a straight handle. The girl-with-the cane wields it as skillfully as her escort swings the heavier one he carries, and seems not to flinch under the curious glances of passersby.

The smallpox has almost disappeared in Spain and Portugal, as well as in France and Germany. In Italy there are still 4,000 fatal cases annually. Fifteen years ago there were 17,000 such cases annually.

World's Financial Center.

Brooks Adams has written a book in which he sets forth the theory that the financial and political convulsions of recent years in the western hemisphere are due to the decay of England's power. He says the center of commercial and financial supremacy has been passing from London across the Atlantic, and the Spanish war was only the shock of its arrival in the United States. The controlling power under the new industrial conditions will continue to be held by this country so long as we can maintain the vast export trade now enjoyed.

American machinery will hereafter handle the coal and iron received and shipped in the harbor of Alexandria, Egypt, with a reduction in the cost per ton from $1.50 to 50 cents or less. An expert was sent to this country to study the problem, and the result is the construction of an elevated tramway on the American plan.

Cheboygan, Mich., claims to have the youngest grandmother in America. She married at 12, and gave birth to a daughter a year later. The child, following her mother's example, married young and lately when 16 years old gave birth to a child, whose grandmother is now a little over 29 years old.

Victoria, Australia, has built seven local railways on the co-operative principle. The railways were estimated for by contract at £547,908, but by working the coperative principle they were completed for £251,211.

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